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A Short
CONFESSIO^N,
OR A
Brief Narrative
OF
FAITH.

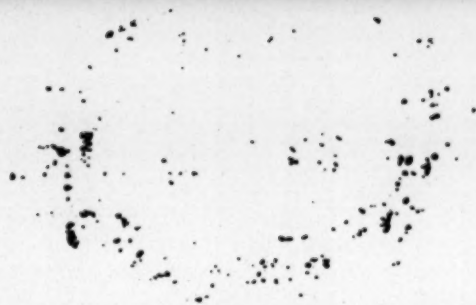
PUBLISHED

By some Baptized Congregations in
the *West*, in the County of *Somerset*,
or near adjacent, who do steadily
deny the Doctrine of *Antinomianism*,
and *Personal Reprobation*, &c.

2 COR. IV. 13.

*We having the same spirit of faith: according
as it is written, I believed, and therefore have
I spoken: we also believe, and therefore speak,
Plal. 116. 10.*

LONDON: Printed for Tho. Fabian, at the
Bible in St. Paul's Church-Yard, a Corner-
Shop, next Cheap-side. 1691.



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A Short
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OF
F A I T H.

The INTRODUCTION.

IT's not for any Ambition of our Attainments above others ; neither for want of an understanding, that there have been sufficient said to these things already ; by such Pens as we prefer and honour, as being far more able to set forth the great Truths of the Gospel than our selves. Neither do we hereby pretend to be bringing forth of new Things ;

2 The INTRODUCTION.

Things; but to bear our Testimony to the Faith once delivered to the Saints, *Jud. 3.* in which we trust through Grace we are established. But our Reasons why we thus publicly appear, are, (1.) We are on these Articles of Faith united together, as one People, to worship and serve the Lord with one mind and consent (until we see just cause to relinquish) holily and resolvedly, in the strength of the Lord, to persevere therein unto the end.

2. Because we are looked upon as a People degenerated from almost all other Baptized Congregations (at least in our parts of the Nation): So that they are not only unfree, but are even afraid to have affinity with us, in the Work, Worship, and Service of the Lord; which did incline us to appear in Publick, after this manner: To give a short Account of our Faith in the great Things of the Gospel: that so, if possible, we may have more Acquaintance, Acceptance, and Fellowship with these Churches of Jesus Christ, that we believe are one with us, in the most material things of the Gospel, both relating to Matters of Faith and Practice: who, it may be, do carry themselves strange for want of a right understanding of our Faith: But if when all is done, it do not answer the end for which it is intended; but we must notwithstanding be looked upon as a by-People, and be rejected, or laid aside, we trust we shall keep close to the Lord, in the things that we at present understand;

The INTRODUCTION. 3

stand ; until we are by some Divine Authority convinced, of some Religious mistakes therein, &c. And now we shall proceed to explain ourselves by those brief Articles of Faith following. We have in this short Narrative taken care to place the Scriptures, such as are most plain and pertinent, to every Article, not in words at length, but only refer to the Chapter and Verse for brevity sake, &c.

To which we have added a Postscript, containing a brief account of some of the most material Reasons, why we cannot own and practise Imposition of hands, on all Believers as such : hoping, That as we design nothing therein, but Peace and Truth ; so it may be a means to effect so good an end, as Peace, among all the Sons and Daughters of Peace (into whose hands it may come) ; which if it be, God will have the Glory, and his People the Advantage : And that it may (*viz.*) be a means to effect so good an end, as aforesaid, is, and shall be the Prayers of,

JOHN COLLIER.

JOHN POCKRIDGE.

CHAP.

C H A P. I.

Of G O D.

1. **W**E believe that there is but One only living and true God, *Deut.* 6. 4. *Isa.* 45. 5. *1 Cor.* 8. 6. *Eph.* 4. 6. And that this One God is a Spiritual Being and Substance, *Job.* 4. 24. hath his being in and of himself, and is Omnipotent, *Rev.* 19. 6, & 11, 12. Omnipresent, or by his Spirit present every-where, *Psal.* 139. 7 to 14. Omniscient, or knoweth all things, *Pf.* 44. 21. 94. 11. *Dan.* 2. 22. *Mat.* 6. 8. *Luk.* 16. 15. *Acts* 15. 8. Invisible, *Col.* 1. 15. *1 Tim.* 1. 17. Eternal, Immortal, *Deut.* 33. 27. *1 Tim.* 1. 17. Incomprehensible, and Glorious, *Isa.* 33. 21. The great Creator and Preserver of all things, *Gen.* 1. throughout, *Isa.* 40. 28. *Job* 7. 20. *Psal.* 36. 6. The Rewarder of them that diligently seek him, *Heb.* 11. 6. The Lord of Hosts is his Name, *2 Sam.* 6. 2.

2. As we do believe this One God to be an Infinite, Eternal, Glorious, Self Being, Invisible, Immortal, and Incomprehensible, so according to the Scriptures of Truth, we do believe the Father, Son, and Spirit, to be this One God, so that this One God subsisteth in Three, to wit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and these Three
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A short Confession of Faith.

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are One ; each of them is God, and yet there is but One God , 1 *John* 5. 7. *Mat.* 3. 16, 17. Concerning each we shall give our thoughts distinctly, yet very briefly.

I. Concerning God the Father ; We believe him to be the Original, or great Efficient Cause of all things, 1 *Cor.* 8. 6. To us there is One God the Father, of whom are all things, *Rom.* 11. 36. for of him, and through him, and to him are all things ; *Eph.* 4. 6. One God the Father of all.

II. Concerning God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ ; We believe him to be the Son, of God, and the Son of Man, truly God, and truly Man, the *Messiah* promised ; that as to his Divine Nature, it was and is of an eternal Existence, of and with the Father, and so truly God ; and this Godhead vailed itself in a Humane Body, — *Phil.* 2. 6, 7, 8. And took upon him the nature and substance of Man, in all its parts and infirmities, sin only excepted, *Heb.* 2. 14, 16. and 4. 15. And as he was thus vailed in a Humane Body, and born of the Virgin *Mary*, and the Divine and Humane Nature united in that one Person, so he is truly, not only the Son of God, but the Son of Man, *Luke* 1. 35. *Isa.* 9. 6. And (2ly,) we do believe that our Redeemer, never was revealed or discovered to any Man, but in the Union of Natures, as he

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came forth in time, nor never will be. Thus he was in all the Promises that God made concerning him; it was as he was manifested in time, and no otherwise: In the first Promise it was the Seed of the Woman, *Gen. 3. 15.* When renewed to *Abraham*, it was to his Seed, *Gen. 12. 3. and 18. 18. and 22. 18.* the same renewed to *Isaac*, *Gen. 26. 4.* and the same to *Jacob*, *Gen. 28. 14.* and the same Promise to *David*, that his Seed should endure for ever, *Psal. 89. 35, 36, 37. Acts 2. 36.* And thus was he Prophetically spoken of as a Prophet, or in his Prophetical Office, *Deut. 18. 18, 19. Acts 3. 22, 23. and 7. 37.* And so he performed his Priestly Office upon the Cross, *Acts 2. 23, 26.* And is still performing of it at his Father's right hand, *1 Tim. 2. 5. Rom. 8. 34. Heb. 4. 14. and 10. 12.* And so he is prophesied of in his Kingly Office, *Jer. 30. 9. Hos. 3. 5. Ezek. 37. 24.* From all which we conclude, That our Lord Jesus Christ, before he was manifested in the Flesh, and since his Manifestation therein, and in the Day of Glory, was not, is not, nor ever will be, known to any Man, in any of his Titles, Offices, Power, and Glory, but only in the Union of Natures; and so we own him to be, the Object of our Faith, and our Redeemer, &c.

III. Concerning the Holy Spirit; We believe, futable to the Scriptures that speak thereof

of, that the Holy Spirit is of God, and is God, of the Divine Essence, 1 Cor. 2. 11. Co-eternal with the Father and the Son, Heb. 9. 14. and proceeding from both, John 14. 16. and 16. 7. God of the same Nature, the Enlightner, Convincer, Converter, Sanctifier, Strengtheners, and Comforter of his People, in and by the means appointed for that end ; namely, the Word of Truth, and Doctrine of the Gospel, Job. 16. 7, to 15. & 14. 16, 17, 26. 2 Thes. 2. 13. 1 Pet. 1. 22.

C H A P. II.

Of the Holy Scriptures.

CONCERNING the Holy Scriptures, we believe, That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Written Word and Will of God ; given by Inspiration to the Holy Prophets and Apostles ; and are left upon Record for our learning, that we through patience, and comfort of the Scriptures, might have Hope ; and that they are a perfect Rule, containing all things necessary to Salvation ; they being the Council of God concerning all things necessary for his own Glory, and the eternal Good of Souls, relating both to matters of Faith and Practice, especially the Doctrine of the Gospel therein contained, Isa. 8. 20. 2 Tim. 3. 15, 16, 17. Rom. 5. 4.

C H A P. III.

Of the Creation.

Concerning the Creation, we believe, (1.) That in the beginning it pleased God Almighty, (for reasons best known to himself) to create or make the World, and all Things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six Days, and all very good, *Gen. 2. 1. John 1. 2, 3. Hebr 1. 2. Rom. 1. 20. Col. 1. 16.* (2.) After God had made the Heavens, and the Earth, and all other Creatures, he made Man, Male and Female, *Gen. 1. 27.* After his own Image, in a state of glorious Perfection, free from sin, *Eccl. 7. 29.* but a little lower than the Angels; having dominion over the works of his hands, *Psal. 8. 4, 5, 6.* And the Lord having made Man, places him in the Garden of *Eden*, where the Lord had provided all things necessary to his accommodation, that might tend to make his state or condition altogether happy, *Gen. 2. 15.* In which state of Innocency, Happiness, and Felicity, he might have continued, any Decree of God in any-wise notwithstanding.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Fall of Man.

CONCERNING the Fall of Man, we believe, That notwithstanding God made Man upright, in a perfect state, not only free from sin, but also from all those miseries that now are the portion of Mankind, as the sad effects of sin; and gave him a perfect Law, *Gen. 2. 16, 17.* which had he kept it, it had been unto Life, and threatned Death upon the breach thereof; Yet through the instigation of the Serpent, and the subtilty of Satan in and by him, Man continued not in that State, but without any compulsion, did wilfully fall from it by transgressing the righteous Law of his Maker, in eating the forbidden Fruit, *Gen. 2. 16, 17, and 3. 3, 6, 7.* Which Transgression of our first Parent, God was pleased according to his most Wise and Holy Council to permit, knowing how to order it to his own Glory.

2. By which Transgression our first Parents fell from their original Righteousness; and became guilty of that Sin, commonly known by the name of Original Sin; and in them all their Posterity, being then in their loyns.

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3. Man having thus fallen by transgressing the Law of his Maker, God as a righteous Law-Executor, proceeds after an orderly manner to pronounce Sentence, (1.) Against the Serpent. (2.) Against the Woman. (3.) Against the Man, *Gen. 3. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.*

4. As this Transgression did not only reach the case of our first Parents, but also their Posterity, being then in them, *Rom. 5. 12.* so likewise did the Sentence that the Lord past upon them, concern not only the Persons of our first Parents, but in them all those Generations of Men, that in succeeding Ages was to descend from them, *Rom. 5. 18.* Judgment came upon all Men, &c. the same Penalties that was inflicted upon our first Parents, for that Sin, (which Penalties are Death, together with those temporal Miseries that came upon them as an effect of that Sin) do certainly come upon their Posterity. They are brought forth in a mortal dying state, liable to all the Miseries of this Life, and in fine, to Death it self, *Rom. 5. 12.* Death passed upon all Men for that all have sinned: Mortal Man could not procreate an Immortal Seed; he begat a Son in his own likeness, in his own image, *Gen. 5. 3.*

5. From whence we conclude, That our first Parents, by vertue of the first Transgression, brought not only themselves, but their whole

whole Posterity into a state of Sin, and Death by Sin, (*viz.*) the first Death; together with those many Inconveniencies and Miseries that are now come upon Mankind, as the sad effects of Sin, *Job* 14. 1. But that this Transgression did procure (in itself) the second Death, (*viz.*) in the Lake of Fire, or Hell Torments, either to *Adam* or any of his Posterity, as is by some not only imagined but affirmed; as it's a Doctrine that is altogether Scriptureless, and so false, so it's altogether irrational, from whence it hath no room in our Faith. We shall here set down a Saying of *Dr. Fer. Tailer*, taken out of his Discourse of Original Sin, in opposition to those that were of the Judgment, that all Infants dying without Baptism, are sentenced to Hell Torments for Original Sin; his words are these: (1.) *Original Sin is not an inherent Evil, not a Sin properly, but metonymically; that is, it is the effect of one Sin, and the cause of many, a Stain but no Sin.* (2.) *It does not destroy our liberty which we had naturally.* (3.) *It does not introduce a natural necessity of sinning.* (4.) *It does not damn any Infant to the eternal Pain of Hell.* And in his Epistle to the Reader, we find these words: *I take great comfort in this, that my Doctrine stands on that side where God, Justice, Goodness, and Mercy stands apparently.* Thus far the Doctor.

6. This Sin did not only concern Mankind in general, but also the Creation that was made

with Man for his use, is by vertue thereof faine under the Curse, is brought into a decaying dying State, and made subject to Vaniry, *Gen. 3. 17. Rom. 8. 19, 20, 21, 22. Heb. 1. 11, 12.*

C H A P. V.

Of the Love of G O D.

CONCERNING the Love of God, we believe, That Man being faine into a state of Sin and Misery, and Death, as an effect thereof, God of his own free Grace and Love, when none desired it at his hands, did contrive the way of Man's recovery out of his faine State: No sooner had Man faine from his created Innocency, but the Lord finds out a way of recovery; and before he pronounces the Sentence against him, promises, that the Seed of the Woman should break the Serpent's head; which Seed of the Woman we understand to be the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the Seed and Son of the Woman, *Luke 1. 31.* Whom God the Father, of his own free Grace and Love to sinful faine Man, did send into the World not to condemn the World, but that the World through him might be saved. The Love of God the Father we understand to lie at the foundation
of

of all Gospel-grace, *John* 3. 16, 17. 1 *John* 4. 9, 10. And that God by *Iesus Christ* designed not the recovery of a few onely, as some imagine, but of all Mankind, 2 *Cor.* 5. 19. 1 *John* 4. 14. We have seen and do testifie, that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World: And 2. 2. He is the Propitiation for our Sins; and not for ours only, but for the Sins of the whole World, *John* 1. 29.

C H A P. VI.

Of the Extent of the Death of CHRIST.

C Concerning the Extent of the Death of our dear Redeemer, we believe, That suitable to the great end of God the Father in sending him into the World, he gave himself a Ransom for all Mankind, 1 *Tim.* 2. 6. *Heb.* 2. 9. For the World, *John* 6. 51. The whole World, *John* 2. 2. And that thereby the World hath its present being, *Psal.* 75. 3. And that thereby there is a way of Reconciliation, Acceptation, and Salvation, opened for all Men, 2 *Cor.* 5. 19. From whence we conclude, That if any Man come short of obtaining Reconciliation, Acceptation and Salvation, it is not for want of Grace in the Father, nor a Sacrifice in the Son.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Of the Gospel.

CONCERNING the Gospel, we believe, That the Gospel is in itself Glad or Good Tidings, *Luke 2. 10. Rom. 10. 15. Is. 52. 7. Nab. 1. 15.* And that there is no bad Tidings therein to any Man, except it be to those that do wilfully reject and neglect the Grace therein tender'd and sincerely offered unto them, *Heb. 2. 2. Rom. 2. 7.* by their own wilful unbelief, and disobedience. And that this Glad Tidings, or Good News, is to be published or made known unto all Men throughout all Ages, *Mar. 16. 16. Rom. 16. 26.*

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Power and Will of Man.

CONCERNING the Power and Will of Man, we believe, That the Power and Will of Man, are proper Attributes or Faculties of the Soul; and if so, then it's God's Workmanship, and properly of and from God; so then Man hath
neither

neither will nor power, but what he receives from the Lord, though he improves it to contrary ends, and not for that end for which it was and is given him. (2.) Notwithstanding all the power and abilities that Men have, are of and from the Lord, yet we are strongly inclined to believe, that the will and power of Man is greatly debilitated by the Fall, but not wholly lost; Man in all his parts is weakened by the Fall, but no part wholly lost. (3.) We believe that there remaineth still in Man, a power to will his own good. Yet, (4.) we believe that Man knoweth not what is good any otherwise but as he is taught of the Lord, *Mich. 6. 8.* (5.) Man being taught of God what is good, and how and when to will this good, being thus shewed of the Lord, he hath now a Capacity (in the use of the Means that God hath appointed) to bring his will to an inclinable frame, truly to be seeking after his eternal Well-being. So, in short, we sum up all thus, That Man hath neither power, nor will, nor a matter what to will, (for his own good) nor how, nor when, in respect of a seasonable time, but what he hath from God, *Psal. 62. 11.* for all power belongeth to God; Yet we believe, that Man ought to imploy his will, yea, all the powers and faculties of his Soul, in and about spiritual things; which if Men were faithful in, God would have the Glory, and they the Advantage.

C H A P. IX.

Of Free Grace.

CONCERNING Free Grace, we believe, That whatsoever Good Man does, or shall enjoy, either Temporal, Spiritual, or Eternal, is freely given to him of God ; without the least desert on Man's part, therefore wholly of Free Grace; or the effects of God's great love to Man : As, (1.) The Gift of his Son is a gracious and a free Gift, *Joh. 3. 16. Rom. 8. 32.* (2.) The Gift of his Holy Law of Grace, is a free Gift. (3.) The Gift of his Holy Spirit, is a free Gift. (4.) The giving of Ordinances are free Gifts ; yea, all the Graces and Qualifications of a Christian, are freely given to him of God ; for Man could not do any thing, no not in any wise, whereby he could deserve the least favour that he now does, or hereafter shall enjoy ; and therefore all our Enjoyments here, and Eternal Life hereafter, are freely given to us of our good God, *Rom. 6. 23.* And yet not to be obtained, without our accepting of God's Free Grace, by Jesus Christ, and living to God by him, as the Holy Terms thereof ; yet not so as by doing or accepting meritoriously, to procure Eternal Life : for when we have done all, we are but unprofitable Servants,

vants, *Luk. 17. 10.* And therefore we deserve nothing from the Lord as a just and meritorious recompence : but Eternal Life is freely given to us of God ; as an Act of his own Free Grace and Mercy, designed by him in the way of our Duty, *Heb. 2. 9.* And we believe, that this Grace of God by his Son, and in his Law, is truly rendred to the World in general.

C H A P. X.

Of FAITH.

CONCERNING Faith, we believe, That Justifying Saving Faith, do not only consist in a bare believing in God, Christ, &c. but also in the truth of God's Word, as it is verbally declared to us in the Scriptures (which is the Rule of our Faith) ; so that whatsoever is plainly stated in the Scriptures, concerning the Grace and Love of God towards Man ; and the Sacrifice of Christ for the World ; and the Duty of Man towards the Lord, with whatever else is plainly stated in the Word of God ; we are to believe it, as it is therein deliver'd, and to endeavour to bring our Understandings to submit to the plain Word of the Lord ; and not make the plain express Word of God to stoop to our Understandings, and Interpretations (for so to do,

do, is to exalt our Interpretations above the Word of the Lord; which always ought to have the preheminance). It's true, such sayings in the Scripture, as are spoken by way of allegory, metaphor, &c. ought to have a sence given to them, which always ought to be such a one, as do comport and agree with the plain and expresse Word of the Lord, and the great design of God therein; and not to underitand such Sayings in the Scriptures, so as do in any wise derogate therefrom. So that Divine Faith, (which is the Faith we are speaking of) is really to believe the Truth, of what the Lord hath spoken in his Word; or to be fully perswaded and satisfied, in our own Judgments and Consciences, that whatsoever is declared to us by the Lord in Holy Scriptures, is absolutely, and really true, without any kind of reservation whatsoever. This was the Faith of *Abraham*, the Father of the Faithful, *Gen. 15. 6. Rom. 4. 3.* and therefore must be the Faith of his Children; which Faith, if attended with Love to God, and sincere Obedience to his Will, we take to be that Faith which is of a justifying, saving nature, *Jam. 2. 22. Gal. 5. 6.*

C H A P. XI.

Of Repentance.

CONCERNING Repentance, we believe, (1.) That it is a Gospel Duty of great and weighty concern, to all those of whom it is required, and from whom it is expected, *Act. 17. 30. Mat. 4. 17.* without which they can have no acceptance before the Lord, *Luke 13. 3, 5.* Which Repentance we understand thus, *viz.* To be truly and sincerely humble before the Lord, in a deep and thorough sight, and sense of our Sins; not for some Sins only, but for all our actual and personal Transgressions against God, and his Holy Law, *Ezek. 18. 30. Act. 2. 38. & 8. 22.* (2.) That this Repentance is the Duty of all actual Sinners. (3.) Where-ever the Scripture do require Men to repent, we understand that it intends them considered as actual Sinners against God; and that no Repentance is required in the Word of the Lord, for that sin which we could in no wise prevent, (*viz.* Original Sin) but for Mens own actual Sins and Transgressions, against the Holy Word and Will of the Lord, it's their duty and great concern to repent, *Act. 3. 19.* (4.) We believe, that where this Repentance is in truth and power, it doth effect

a change ; and is accompanied, not only with a forsaking of the sins repented of, but with an utter detestation and abhorrence of them, from a deep sence and apprehension that they are offensive to the Lord, *Isai. 55. 7. Ezek. 36. 31, 32.*

C H A P. XII.

Of Baptism.

CONCERNING Baptism, we believe, That there is but one Baptism, properly so called, *Eph. 4. 5.* And that this one Baptism is a Holy Ordinance, ordained by our Lord Jesus Christ himself, *Mat. 28. 19.* to be unto the Party baptized, a Sign of his Fellowship with him, in his Death and Resurrection, *Rom. 6. 3, 4, 5. Col. 2. 12.* of his being engrafted into him, *Gal. 3. 27.* of remission of sins, *Act. 2. 38. Mar. 1. 4.* and of his giving up of himself to the Lord, to walk in newness of Life, *Rom. 6. 4.*

2. Those that do actually profess Repentance towards God, Faith in, and Obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper Subjects of this Holy Ordinance, *Mar. 16. 16. Act. 8. 36, 37.*

3. The outward Element to be made use of in this Ordinance, is Water, wherein the Party

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is to be Baptized, in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, *Mat.* 28. 19.

4. Immerſion, or Dipping of the Perſon in Water, is neceſſary to the right Adminiſtration of this Ordinance, *Act.* 8. 38. *John* 3. 23.

5. From whence we conclude, That ſprinkling of a little Water in the Face, is no Baptiſm, neither Infants the proper Subjects for it.

C H A P. XIII.

Of the L O R D's Supper.

CONCERNING the Supper of the Lord, we believe, that it was inſtituted by him, the ſame Night wherein he was betrayed, to be obſerved in his Churches unto the end of the World, for the perpetual remembrance of his dying Love, in offering up himſelf upon the Croſs, once for all, *Mat.* 26. 26, 27, 28. *Luk.* 22. 19, 20.

2. The Materials to be made uſe of in this Holy Ordinance, are Bread and Wine, which figuratively do represent the Body and Blood of Chriſt, *Mat.* 26. 26, 27, 28, 29.

3. That none ought to communicate in this Holy Ordinance. but ſuch as are orderly Mem-
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bers of the Church of Christ ; made so by Repentance, Faith, and Baptism, *Act. 2. 41, 42. 1 Cor. 11. 23, 24, 25, 26.* And then they have a lawful Right unto it. Which Holy Ordinance ought to be duly observed, and kept up in the orderly Church of Christ onely, for the ends for which it was appointed.

C H A P. XIV.

Of the Work of the Holy Spirit.

CONCERNING the Work of the Holy Spirit, we believe, (1.) That God does give the Blessings of his Spirit in and with his Word ; the Word being the Spirit's Ministration, *2 Cor. 3. 8.* So that where the Word is in truth, light, and power preached, there it is attended with the Spirit. •

2. That there is an absolute necessity of the workings of the Spirit, both in bringing and keeping Souls to the Lord.

3. Yet we do believe, that the Holy Spirit is not so given, but that it may be resisted, and hath been to Mens destruction, *Gen. 6. 3. Neh. 8. 20. Acts 7. 51. 1. Thes. 5. 9.* And we have just cause to believe, that multitudes of Souls do still resist the motions of the Spirit, or they would not go on, and wilfully persist in the pra-

practice of Sin and Wickedness as they do.

4. We do believe, That God does give greater measures of his Spirit after believing and obeying then before; which he is pleased to communicate unto them in the way of their Duty, in seeking, asking, and waiting upon the Lord, in the way of his own appointment; which seems evident from the light of these Scriptures, *Luke 11. 13. Acts 5. 32. Eph. 1. 13. Jam. 4. 6.* We desire to honour God in the Gifts and Graces of his Holy Spirit; yea, we believe that we ought to submit to its motions and operations upon our Souls, least we reject the Council and Work of the Lord to our own destruction.

C H A P. XV.

Of Justification.

CONCERNING Justification, we believe, (1.) That Men are not justified before and without Faith.

2. That no Man is or can be justified by the Works of the Law, as delivered by *Moses*, *Gal. 2. 16. & 3. 11. & 5. 4.*

3. That no Man is justified by Faith alone, *Jam. 2. 22, 23, 24.*

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4. We do believe, That the terms on which Men are justified, are Faith and Gospel-works ; which according to the Doctrine of the Gospel, are the terms of our Interest in the Justification and Life therein promised, and that so absolutely the Condition thereof, as that without which none that are capable Subjects can obtain it, *Mar. 16. 16. Heb. 5. 9. Rev. 22. 14.* Yet not as the meritorious or deserving Cause, that being alone in Christ Jesus ; which Terms in short are, (1.) Faith, without which it is impossible to please God, *Heb. 11. 6.* (2.) Repentance, without which we must perish, *Luke 13. 3.* (3.) Love to Jesus Christ in his Ways, and People, without which we are cursed, *1 Cor. 16. 22.* (4.) Holiness, without which no Man shall see the Lord, *Heb. 12. 14.* From whence we argue thus : Whatsoever is the Terms of our Acceptation before the Lord, is the Terms of our Justification : But Faith, Repentance, Love to Christ, and Holiness, without which no Man can see the Lord, are the Terms of our Acceptation ; *Ergo*, so they are of our Justification.

5. In short, we understand that Men are justified, (1.) By the Grace of God as the primary efficient Cause, *Rom. 3. 24.* (2.) By the Death and Suffering of Christ, as the meritorious or deserving Cause. (3.) By the Word of the Lord, with its Ministry, as the instrumental Cause, to beget Faith and Obedience.

(4.)

(4.) By Faith and Obedience, as the conditional Cause, or the Holy Terms on which they are justified,

C H A P. XVI.

Of Sanctification.

CONCERNING Sanctification, we believe, That as God hath a People in the World, whom he doth accept and own for his own People, whom he hath chosen, out of all the World, besides, to be a peculiar People to himself, so he doth not only afford unto them the grace of Justification, but also of Sanctification, *Rom. 8. 30.* Whom he justified, them he also sanctified. God, who is a Holy God, will have his People to be a Holy and Sanctified People, *1 Thes. 4. 3.* For this is the will of God, even your Sanctification, *1 Pet. 1. 15, 16. Eph. 5. 25, 26, 27.* This was one great end of the Lord in giving himself for his Church; And to the same end hath he given forth unto his People a Holy Law of Grace; tending to nothing more than the promotion of Holiness, in which he hath ordained Holy Ordinances for his People to be observing; and doth communicate unto them his Holy Spirit, *Rom. 8. 9.* That they may be a Holy and a Sanctified People, without spot

or wrinkle, or any such thing, (the spots and blemishes of Sin, is that which renders persons unlovely in the eyes of the Lord,) the great design of God in the Gospel, is to prepare a Holy People now in this Day of Grace, by the powerful operation of his Word and Spirit, fitted and prepared not only to be espoused to the Holy Jesus while here, but to be with him where he is, or shall be, in his Holy Habitation hereafter in Glory. *Psal* 24. 3, 4. Who shall ascend into the Hill of the Lord? and who shall stand in his Holy Place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, &c.

2. This Sanctification is wrought in God's People as an effect of the Lord's undertaking, by the Word and Spirit, in and through the exercise of Faith, *2 Theff.* 2. 13. *Acts* 26. 18. By vertue of which the body of Sin is destroyed, *Rom.* 6. 6. And the several lusts thereof more and more weakened and mortified, and they the more and more quickned and strengthened in all saving Graces, to the practice and exercise of all true Holiness, without which no Man shall see the Lord, *Col.* 1. 11. *Heb.* 12, 14.

3. This Sanctification is throughout, in the whole Man, *1 Theff.* 5. 23. Yet imperfect in this life; while here in this imperfect state, there abideth still the remainders of Corruption in every part whence ariseth a continual War, the Flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit

nit against the Flesh, *Gal. 5. 17. 2 Pet. 2. 11.*

4. In which War, although the remaining Corruption, may at times, through Temptation prevail, against the best of God's Servants, *Rom. 7. 23.* yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, communicated to them, in the way of their Duty, in waiting upon the Lord in his Holy Ordinances, *Jam. 4. 8.* The Regenerate part doth overcome; and so the Saints grow in Grace, *2 Pet. 3. 18.* perfecting Holiness in the fear of the Lord, *2 Cor. 7. 1.* And are pressing after a heavenly life, in obedience to all the Commands of the Lord Jesus Christ, their Head and King.

C H A P. XVII.

Of Perseverance.

CONCERNING Perseverance we believe, (1.) That it's absolutely necessary, in order to the obtaining of the end (namely Salvation, with Eternal Glory); for Believers to cleave to the Lord, and to keep close to him in the way of Duty.

1. To watch and pray, *Mat. 26. 41. Mar. 14. 38. Luk. 21. 36. Eph. 6. 8. 1 Thes. 5. 17.*
- I 4
2. To

2. To keep close to the Publick Worship and Service of God, *Heb. 10. 25.*

3. To be mortifying the corrupt Deeds of the Body, *Col. 3:6. Rom. 8. 13.*

4. To be continuing in the exercise of Faith, *Col. 1. 23. Heb. 3. 6.*

5. To be growing and encreasing in all the Graces of the New Covenant, *2 Pet. 1. 5, to 11, & 3. 18.*

In which way of keeping close to the Lord, watching and praying, worshipping and serving God, mortifying the corrupt deeds of the Body, growing and increasing in all the Graces of the New Covenant ; to wit, Faith, Love, Humility, Patience, &c. they shall be supplied with sufficiency of Grace here, to preserve them safely to the Kingdom of Glory hereafter, *Psal. 84. 11. 2 Pet. 1. 11.*

2. Yet we believe, that it's possible for true Believers, through their remissness or negligence in point of Duty towards God, through the Temptations of Satan, and Corruptions of their own deceitful Hearts ; finally to apostatize from the Truth they once made Profession of, and in so doing render their later end to be worse than their beginning, *2 Pet. 2. 20, 21, 22. 1 Tim. 1. 19, 20. Heb. 3. 12. & 4. 11. Psal. 85. 9.*

C H A P. XVIII.

Of GOD's Decrees.

CONCERNING God's Decrees, we believe, (1.) That the Word of God is his decreed Will ; and that there is no secret Will or Decree in God, contrary to his revealed Word and Will : And that his Decree is, That whosoever believeth and obey him, persevering therein to the end, shall be saved ; and he that believeth not, shall be damned, *Mar. 16. 16.*

2. We believe, That whatsoever God hath absolutely decreed, shall certainly and inevitably come to pass. But then,

3. We believe, That many things that do come to pass, are not decreed of God, *Fer. 7. 31. 32. & 19. 5.* For it seems to us not only unscriptural, but also altogether irrational, to imagine, that the righteous and holy God, should decree any sin, or unholiness, either in Angels, or Men ; that being not only contrary to his Word which commands Men to be holy ; but also to his Name and Nature, which is most holy ; and therefore could decree no Unrighteousness. From whence we conclude, that all the wicked and ungodly Actions, either of Angels, or Men, tho' God doth permit them to come to pass, yet there

there is no Decree of His, that do necessitate the being of them: It might sute the Nature of the Devil, or wicked Men, to decree wickedness; but far be it from the righteous God so to do: Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do right?

C H A P. XIX.

Of Providence, or Fore-knowledge.

CONCERNING Providence, or Fore-knowledge, we believe, That notwithstanding God foreknoweth whatsoever cometh to pass, *Heb. 4. 12, 13.* Yet we believe this Fore-knowledge is not so exercised, as to necessitate the coming to pass of Things; but that they may, or may not be, may come to pass, or may be prevented. As for instance: (1.) In the case of *David*, *1 Sam. 23. 10, 11, 12, 13.* *David* being in *Keilah*, and *Saul* was coming to take him, *David* asked of the Lord, Whether *Saul* would come down? And whether the Men of *Keilah* would deliver him into his hands? The Lord answered, That *Saul* would come down, and the Men of *Keilah* would deliver him. Then *David* with his Men departed, and prevented both *Saul*, and the Men of the Town; so what the Lord said to *David* would come to pass, did not, &c.

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Another Instance we have in *Jer.* 18. 7, 8, 9, 10. That at what instant God should speak concerning a Nation, to pluck up, to pull down, or to build, or plant, if the People against whom the Judgment was pronounced, did repent, the Lord would repent of the Evil: and when he did promise to build, &c. if the People did do Evil, he would repent of the Good he promised to do to, and for them. The truth of which is evident in the case of *Nineveh*; *Jonah* preached, That *Nineveh* in Forty days should be overthrown; and yet on their Repentance it was prevented, God repented him of the Evil that he thought to do, *Jonah* 3. 10. Another instance is concerning *Israel*, They sinned, for which the Lord would have destroyed them; but on the Intercession of *Moses*, the Lord was intreated, and repented him of the Evil which he thought to have done unto them, *Exod.* 22. 14. Many more Scriptures might be made use of to the same purpose; yea, all the Promises and Threatnings of God's Word, do prove the same; that is to say, That God's Providence, or Fore-seeing of Things, do not necessitate the being of them, but that in the use of means it might be prevented, God having to do with Men capable to understand him both in his Promises and Threatnings, and not with Stocks or Stones, neither with vegetive, or meerly sensitive Creatures.

C H A P. XX.

Of Election.

CONCERNING Election, we believe, (1.) Not as some who express themselves after this manner, in these Words : " By the Decree of God, for the Manifestation of his Glory, some Men and Angels are Predestinated, or Fore-ordained to Eternal Life, through Jesus Christ : And that these Angels and Men thus Predestinated, and Fore-ordained, are particularly, and unchangeably designed ; and their Number so certain, and definite, that it cannot be either increased, or diminished."

2. And affirmatively, we believe, That the infinitely wise and holy God, suitable to his Name and Nature, did Elect, or Choose unto himself, from Eternity, and (meerly of his own good pleasure) out of the whole Body and Bulk of Mankind, and entire Species, or sort of Men, namely those that in time, do believe, and sincerely obey him, patiently continuing in the way of well-doing unto the end, *Rom. 2. 7. Heb. 5. 9. Psal. 112. 1. Rev. 2. 10.*

3. We

3. We believe this Election to be in Christ Jesus, of God's Eternal Purpose and Grace, before the Foundation of the World, *Eph. i. 4.* *2 Tim. i. 9.*

4. We do believe that God's Electing Grace, doth extend itself to the whole Number of the Godly, in all Nations, throughout all Ages, under the various Dispensations, under which they live, *Act. 10. 34, 35.* *Psal. 4. 3.*

C H A P. XXI.

Of Reprobation.

CONCERNING Reprobation, we believe, That God hath not decreed from Eternity the Reprobation of any Person of Mankind, considered as such, who may not very possibly be saved, notwithstanding any Decree in God ; much less do we hold a Decree of Reprobation from Eternity, of the greatest part of Mankind, excluding a possibility of their being saved ; for we believe that God doth not hate or reprobate any Man as his Creature, before he consider him as an actual sinner.

2. We believe, that whensoever God doth reject or reprobate any Person of Mankind, it is for their own wilful and actual Transgressions, as the just deserving cause thereof, and not from

from his own Will, any otherwise considered,
Jer. 7. 28, 29. *Prov.* 1. 24, 25, 26, 27. *2 Thes.*
 10, 11, 12.

3. That the Intent (at least the primary, or
 antecedent Intent) of God in his Decree of Re-
 probation, is the Salvation, and not the Damna-
 tion of Men, *Jer.* 6. 30. The Lord declares,
 that he had rejected or reprobated them ; yet
chap. 7. 3, 4, 5, 6. exhorts them to Duty, with
 Promises on their performance ; and if ever the
 Lord does finally reprobate any Person, or Per-
 sons, it is for their final rejecting him in his ma-
 ny Calls, and gracious Invitations, *2 Thes.* 2. 11,
 12. *Luk.* 13. 34.

4. From whence we conclude, that those that
 own Personal Election, and Personal Reproba-
 tion, before time, so as to deny the Love of
 God to the World, do not own the Faith of the
 Gospel.

5. We believe, that God hath not decreed
 the Reprobation of any Infant, dying before the
 commission of actual sin.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

Of GOD's Governing of the World.

CONCERNING God's Governing of the World, we believe, That God is the Supreme Lord and Governour of the whole World, *Psal.* 145. 11, 12, 13. *Psal.* 22. 28.

2. As to the Method that the Lord makes use of in his Governing of the World, (we mean the World of Mankind) we believe that,

1. For the keeping up and maintaining of all Civil Society amongst Men, in natural and moral Things, the Lord hath set up Governours, ordained by himself, *Rem.* 13. 1. Unto whom he hath given Power and Authority to execute Judgment and Justice amongst Men, which Governours, in respect of that Power and Authority that the Lord hath given them, are in Scripture called Gods, *Exod.* 22. 28. *Psal.* 82. 1. being his Deputies; whose work is to be a terrour to Evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well, to keep up, maintain, and cherish, all Civil, Natural, and Moral Principles amongst Men, and to punish the breach thereof: for the Law is made for the lawless and disobedient

dient, 1 *Tim.* 1. 9. That is, for those that transgress the Law; and the Magistrate is the Lord's Executioner, and beareth not the Sword in vain, for he is the Minister of God, a Revenger, to execute wrath upon them that do evil, *Rom.* 13. 4. And thus far the Governours of the World ought to exercise their Authority over Men, *viz.* in all things of Humane and Civil Concern; and so far it's the Duty and great Concern of Christians to be obedient and subject to them, and to render to them all that Honour that by the Ordinance of God is due to them.

2. As to Spiritual Things, of Religious, Ecclesiastical, or Divine Concern, we believe, That God by Jesus Christ, do Govern the World: we mean thus, That Government herein, (according to the Will of the Lord) is not left to the Will of Men, but the Lord hath provided and instituted, holy and spiritual Laws for Men to believe in, cleave to, and be saved by. And that these Laws are given forth by the Lord Jesus Christ, as the alone Legislator, or Law-giver, *Jam.* 4. 12. And these holy and spiritual Laws, are by Vertue of the Lord's Commission to be preached to the whole World, as a Rule for them not only to believe, but also to walk by. And those amongst Men that do obey the Lord in these his Spiritual Laws. he espouseth to himself, to be his Church and Spouse, in, and with whom his Spiritual Kingdom is exercised and kept

kept up. And those that believe not, nor obey the Lord in these his holy Laws, that will have him to Reign over them ; but are Enemies to him and his Government, *Luk. 19. 27.* The Lord will destroy, when he shall be revealed from Heaven in flaming Fire, taking Vengeance on them that know not God, nor obey not the Gospel, *2 Thes. 1. 8.*

So that the punishment of Men, for the breach of Gospel Laws, belongs to God alone, and not in any wise to Man ; we mean, in such things as do concern God's Worship only. Yet we believe, that where the Gospel do not come, that if Men be governed by the Law of God, written in their Hearts, *Rom. 2. 15.* and by the Works of God without them, which are sufficient to teach them, that there is a God, *Psal. 19. 1, 2, 3.* And so endeavour to live to God, futable to the Light they have received, no doubt but they shall be accepted, (though they are not under the Ministration of the Gospel, *Act. 10. 35, 34.*) And in the Great Day of Judgment, rewarded according to their Works.

C H A P. XXIII.

Of the Church of CHRIST.

CONCERNING the Church of Christ, we believe, That the Lord Jesus Christ hath a Church in the World, which we understand to be taken, (1.) More generally for the whole Number of the Godly throughout all Ages, *Eph. 1. 22, 23. Heb. 12. 23.* (2.) More particularly, for a particular Assembly, of People gathered out of the World by the Ministry of the Gospel, to the visible Profession of Faith in Christ, and Obedience to his Will, in all his holy Institutions, such a People so gathered, into a particular Congregation, continuing steadfastly in the Doctrine of Christ, and his holy Apostles, we understand to be a Gospel Church.

II. We believe, That the Lord Jesus Christ is the alone Head of his Church, whether we understand it more generally for all God's People, or more particularly for any particular Congregation of them; and no other Lord, or Law-giver do we own in Religious, and Divine Things, that do Concern the Worship and Service of God, but the Lord Jesus Christ alone, *Mat. 28. 18, 19, 20. Col. 1. 18. Eph. 4. 11, 12.*

III. As to the way of Entrance into the Church of Christ, we understand it to be by Faith, Repentance, and Baptism, and that none ought to enter in, but in that way, *Mat. 16. 16. Act. 2. 39, 41.*

IV. We believe, That to each of these Churches, or particular Congregations thus gathered, according to the Mind and will of the Lord declared in his Word, he hath given all that Power and Authority, which is any ways necessary and needful, for their carrying on of that Order in Worship and Discipline, which he hath instituted for them to observe, with Commands and Rules, for the right and due exercising, and executing of that Power, *Mat. 18. 17, 18. 1 Cor. 5. 4, 5. 2 Cor. 2. 6, 7, 8.*

V. As all Believers are bound by the Law of Christ, to joyn themselves to particular Churches, when and where they have opportunity so to do; so all that are admitted to the Priviledges of a Church, are also under the Government and Censures thereof, according to the Rule of Christ, *1 Thes. 5. 14. 2 Thes. 3. 6, 14, 15.*

VI. We believe that no Church-Members upon any Offence taken by them, having performed their Duty requir'd of them towards the Person they are offended at, ought to make any

breach in Church Order, or absent themselves from the Assemblies of the Church, or Administration of any Ordinances, upon the account of any such Offence at any of his Fellow-members; but to keep to his Place and Duty in the Church, and to wait upon the Lord in their further proceedings with such Members, against whom the Offence is taken, *Mat. 18. 15, 16, 17. Eph. 4. 2, 3.*

VII. We believe, that as it is the Duty of each Church to pray continually for the Good of all the Churches; (so the Churches, when planted, by the Providence of God, so as they may have opportunity for it) ought to hold Communion with each other, for their Peace, increase of Love, and mutual Edification; *Rom. 16. 1, 2.*

VIII. We believe, that a particular Church gathered, and compleatly fitted, or accomplished for the Worship, and Publick Service of God, consists of Officers and Members; and the Officers appointed by Christ to be chosen, and set apart by the Church, for the peculiar Administration of Ordinances, and Execution of Power or Duty in any respect which he entrusts them with; or calls them to, are Bishops, or Elders and Deacons, *Phil. 1. 1. 18. 20. 17. 28.*

IX. We

IX. We believe, that the Churches ought to take great Care, that the Persons they choose, and set apart to Office in the Churches, be such as are suitably qualified, and gifted for that Work, according to the Mind of Christ, *1 Tim.* 3. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. *Act.* 6. 3.

X. The way appointed by Christ, for the calling of any Person (fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit) unto the Office of Bishop or Elder in a Church is, that he be chosen thereunto by the general Consent of the Church itself; and solemnly set apart by Fasting, Prayer, and Imposition of Hands of the Eldership of the Church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a Deacon, that he be chosen by the like Consent, and set apart by Prayer, and the like Imposition of Hands, *Act.* 14. 23. *1 Tim.* 4. 14. *Act.* 6. 3, 5, 6.

XI. As we do believe, that the Churches ought to take great care, and be very heedful, that the Persons they choose and set apart to the Work and Office of Elders in the Congregations, be such as be gifted, and suitably qualified (according to the Mind of the Lord) for that Office: So we do believe, That the Learning of the Languages. (to wit) *Hebrew, Greek, Latine, &c.* is no Qualification so absolutely necessary to the being of a Minister, or Elder;

but that a Person may very possibly be sufficiently qualified for that Office without it. Tho' we readily grant, that the Learning of the Languages may be useful in its place, as a Servant to help, &c. But to make it a Qualification absolutely necessary to the being of a Minister, we dare not. Our Reasons for it are :

1. Because the Gospel was at first preached, and brought forth unto the World by unlearned Men ; such were the Apostles, *Act. 4. 13.*

2. Because amongst the many Qualifications required in the Scriptures, to be found in those that are set apart to the Work and Office of an Elder, we never find this recorded as one of those Qualifications.

3. Because Experience testifies, that Men unlearned in the Languages, have been very useful in the Lord's hands, and have been famous Instruments for the good of Souls. Have not many Souls been converted ? Have not many famous Churches been gathered by unlearned Men ? Why then such Persons should be laid aside, as not suitably qualified for the Lord's Work, in point of Ministry, or Elder-ship, we see no reason ?

4. Because the confining to a Learned Ministry, seems greatly contrary to the Mind of the Lord, and his Method in bringing forth the Gospel : And this appears, in that the Scripture lets us to know, That the Lord hath chosen
foolish

foolish and weak things to confound those that are mighty ; and things that are not, to bring to nought things that are, 1 Cor. 1. 26, 27, 28. Have not the great Things of the Gospel been hid from the wise and prudent, and revealed unto babes, viz. to such as were little in the World's eyes; Mat. 11. 25. That so Men might not look after Gospel Things for the excellency of the Persons that do bring it forth ; but for the worth and excellency that there is therein. And that the Faith of God's People might not stand in the Wisdom of Men, but in the Power of God ; that so no Flesh might glory in his Presence, 1 Cor. 2. 5. & 1. 29. Had the Lord made choice of the wise and learned only, to have been employed in the great Work of Gospel-Preaching ; had he not then chosen the wise to confound the foolish, and the mighty to confound the weak ; and things that are [esteemed in the World's Eyes] to bring to nought things that are not ? And had not our Faith then stood in the Wisdom of Men, and not in the Power of God ? And then might not Flesh have gloried in his Presence, contrary to the Lord's design, 1 Cor. 1. 29. What great and good effects have we seen of Learnings ? Why should Men be so fond of it ? Was not the Apostasie brought into the World by learned Men ? Have it not been maintained and carried on by such ever since ? And may there not be great cause to fear, that the bringing of Persons to a great

degree of Learning, on purpose to qualifie them for the Work of the Ministry, is that which will by degrees usher in another Apostasie? And that this of Learning which now is pretended as a Servant to help, will (after a-while) become a Lord to Rule; so that those that have it not, though otherwise never so well qualified and gifted for the Work of Ministry, will be rejected, from that work, meerly because they are not learned Men. And may not this be a means in time to reduce the few faithful Labourers the Lord hath in his Vineyard, to a smaller Number?

But as to the Qualifications that ought to be found in those that are call'd to the Ministry, read and ponder, *1 Tim.* 3. 2, 3; 4, 5, 6, 7. & *2 Tim.* 24. 25. compared with *Tit.* 1. 6, 7, 8, 9. And of a Deacon, *1 Tim.* 3. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

XII. As we do believe it to be the work of Pastors, constantly to attend the Service of Christ in his Churches, in the Ministry of the Word and Prayer, *Act.* 6. 4. with watching for their Souls, as they that must give an Account to him, *Heb.* 13. 17. So we do believe, that it's a Duty of great Concern for the Churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, *1 Tim.* 5. 17. but also to communicate to them of all their good things, according to their ability, *Gal.* 6. 6, 7. So as they may have

have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular Affairs, 2 Tim. 2. 4; That so they may have sufficiency of opportunity to be faithful in the discharge of a good Conscience towards God, in the great Work he hath call'd them to; and this is required by the Law of Nature, 1 Cor. 9. 6.—14. and by the express Command of our Lord, who hath ordained that they which preach the Gospel, should live of the Gospel.

XIII. Although we do believe it to be incumbent on the Pastors of the Churches, to be instant in preaching the Word, by way of Office; yet the Work of Preaching the Word, is not so confined to them, but that others also, gifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, and approved, and called by the Church, may, and ought to perform it, *Act. 11. 19, 20, 21. 1 Pet. 4. 10, 11.*

XIV. As we do believe it to be the Duty of Christians, earnestly to desire Spiritual Gifts, but rather that they may Prophesie, 1 Cor. 14. 1. So we do believe, that every Church of Christ ought to be a Nursery, to nurse up and cherish Gifts amongst themselves, and to embrace any among them, whether learned or unlearned, that are likely to be useful in the Lord's Work.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIV.

Of the Resurrection of the Dead.

CONCERNING the Resurrection of the Dead, we believe, according to the Scriptures, that there will be a Resurrection of the Dead, both of the Just and Unjust, *Act. 24. 15.*

II. That the same Persons that sleep in the Dust of the Earth, even all the Generations of Men, from one end of the World to the other, shall be raised in the Resurrection, *Job. 5. 28, 29. 1 Cor. 15. 21, 22.* the same Body shall rise again, and not another.

III. In this Resurrection the vile Bodies of the Saints shall be changed, and fashioned like unto the glorious Body of the Lord himself, *Phil. 3. 20.*

IV. The end of this Resurrection is to the Saints, the perfecting of the Restauration of the New Covenant, and receiving the End of their Faith, &c. and to the wicked, that they may receive the due and just recompence of their Wickedness and Rebellion against the Lord, *Job. 5. 28, 29. Dan. 12. 2.*

V. We

V. We believe, that there will be an Order in the Resurrection, Christ is the first Fruits, then, next, or after, they that are Christ's at his Coming, then, or afterwards, cometh the end, 1 Cor. 15. 23, 24. 1 Thes. 4. 15, 16.

CHAP. XXV.

Of the Eternal Judgment.

Concerning the Eternal Judgment, we believe, (I.) That God hath appointed a Day wherein he will judge the World by Jesus Christ, Act. 17. 31. to whom all Power and Judgment is given of the Father, Joh. 5. 22, 27. In which Day not only the Apostate Angels shall be judged; but likewise all Persons that have lived upon the Earth, shall appear before the Tribunal of Christ, to give an account of all their Thoughts, Words, and Deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the Body, 2 Cor. 5. 10. Eccles. 12. 14. Mat. 12. 36. Rom. 14. 10. Mat. 25. 32.

II. We believe, that as all Men shall give an account unto the Lord, so the Matters then to be enquired into, and for which they must be accountable, will be their own wilful and personal

sonal sins, either of omission or commission; and that whosoever at that Day shall be sentenced to Condemnation, will then know, that it was their wilfulness, not weakness, actual, not original sin, that was the procuring cause thereof; or they will not be left inexcusable; the truth of which appeareth from the light of the fore-mentioned Scriptures.

III. We believe, that whomsoever of all the Sons and Daughters of *Adam*, shall in the Great Day of Judgment appear without actual Sin, (which is the Case only of those that die in Infancy); shall not in that day fall into Condemnation; but shall be saved with such a degree of Salvation, as the righteous and merciful Lord and Judge shall see fit to confer upon them; all the Reason we shall here render in this matter is, (1.) They have no sin of their own to condemn them... (2.) They have the Grace of the Father, and the Merits of the Son to save them, (3.) The Lord tells us of such (meaning little Children) are the Kingdom of Heaven, *Mat.* 18. 2, 3, & 19. 14. (4.) Because the contrary is a merciless Principle, contrary to God's Name and Nature, *Exod.* 34. 6.

IV. We believe, that suitable to Mens Improvement of their Time and Talents here, will their Judgments be hereafter, *Mat.* 25. 14. to 30. *Luke* 17. 16, to 24. *Isa.* 40. 10. From whence

whence we conclude, that there will be very great Degrees of Reward, both in Glory and Punishment.

V. We believe, that in this Great Judgment the Eternal State both of Angels and Men will be determined; so that futable to the Sentence then given by the Righteous Lord and Judge, will be their Eternal State, and that there will be no revoking or altering of the Sentence, which shall then pass upon either Angels or Men; and so it will be an Irrevocable and Eternal Judgment, and Men will know in the Judgment, when the Sentence is past, how it will be with them for ever after.

C H A P. XXVI.

Of the Restitution of All Things.

Concerning the Restitution, we believe, That there shall be a Restitution of All Things, *Act. 3. 21. Rev. 21. 5.* And he that sate upon the Throne, said, Behold, I make All Things New. God made the First, or Old World, both Heaven and Earth, and all Things therein, for the use of Man, and then made Man to possess it; but Man fell by Sin, and the whole Creation with him for his Sin, as a just Judgment

ment of God upon him. Now inasmuch as this old Creation was lost and fallen, the design of God by the Man Christ Jesus, was the Recovery and Restauration of all again, and to make all new, not of new matter, but the old things must be made new, for it will be a Restitution, or Renovation, not properly a Creation; which Restauration will wonderfully tend to set forth the Power and Godhead of the Great Creator, not only in making and preserving, but also in restoring of so wonderful a Creation; and his Wisdom will illustiously be seen not only in contriving and creating of such various and many sorts of Creatures, and to bring all out of nothing, but also his Wisdom and Power will be wonderfully declared by his Works in the Restitution for evermore. For the truth hereof, read and ponder these following Texts of Scripture; *Psal.* 96. 10, 11, 12. & 98. 7, 8. *Isa.* 11. 6 to 9. & 65. 17, 25. *Hos.* 2. 18. *Rom.* 8. 20, 21, 22. *Eph.* 1. 10. *Phil.* 2. 10. *Col.* 1. 20. *Rev.* 5. 13. *Psal.* 69. 34.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVII.

Of the Reign of CHRIST.

CONCERNING the Kingdom and Reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we do believe, That he is now in Heaven at his Father's right hand, so we do believe, that at the time appointed of the Father, he shall come again in Power and great Glory : And that at, or after his coming the second time, he will not only raise the Dead, Judge and Restore the World, but will also take to himself his Kingdom ; and will (according to the Scriptures) Reign on the Throne of his Father *David* on Mount *Sion*, in *Jerusalem*, for ever, *Is.* 9. 7. *Luke* 1. 32, 33.

2. We believe, That this Kingdom of our Lord will be an Universal Kingdom, and that in this Kingdom the Lord Jesus Christ himself will be the alone Visible Supreme Lord and King of the whole Earth, *Dan.* 7. 14. *Rev.* 5. 13. & 11. 15.

3. We believe, That as this Kingdom will be Universal, so it will be also an Everlasting Kingdom, *Dan.* 2. 44. that shall have no end, nor cannot be shaken, *Dan.* 7. 14. *Heb.* 12. 27, 28. In which Kingdom the Saints and Faithful in Christ Jesus, shall receive the end of their Faith,

Faith, even the Salvation of their Souls ; where the Lord is, they shall be also, *1 Pet. 1. 4, 5, 9, 13. John 14. 3. Rev. 21. 4.*

4. We believe, That the *New Jerusalem*, that shall come down from God out of Heaven, when the Tabernacle of God shall be with Men, and he will dwell among them, *Rev. 21. 2, 3.* will be the Metrapolitan City of this Kingdom, and will be the glorious Place of Residence, of both Christ and his Saints for ever ; and will be so situated, as that the Kingly Palace will be on Mount *Sion*, the Holy Hill of *David*, where his Throne was, *Psal. 2. 6. Isa. 24. 23. Jer. 3. 17.*

5. We do believe, That this Kingdom will be a peaceable and a very glorious Kingdom, beyond conception, and much more beyond expression, of which *Solomon's Kingdom* was a Type, *Isa. 24. 23.*

6. We believe, That this Kingdom of our Lord will be that that shall succeed the fourth Monarch, spoken of *Dan. 2. 40.* And will be the Stone cut out of the Mountain without hands, which shall fill the whole Earth, *ver. 35. 45.*

7. We believe, That this Kingdom ought not to be set up by the material Sword, that being so exceeding contrary to the very Nature of Christianity : for which we shall give these following brief Reasons, (1.) Because a Christian Life is to love our Enemies, *Mat. 5. 44.*
and

and to pray for them, and not destroy them ;
to pray for all Men, *1 Tim.* 2. 1, 2. (2.) To
be subject to Government, in all Cases of Ci-
vil concern, *Rom.* 13. 1. And patiently endure
and suffer Tribulation and Persecution for the
Kingdom of Christ's sake, *Acts* 14. 22. *James*
1. 12. (3.) Because Christ's Kingdom is not
of this World, therefore his Servants ought not
to fight, *John* 18. 36. From which Consid-
erations, we cannot chearfully have Communi-
on with those that own the setting up Christ's
Kingdom by the Power of the Sword : be-
lieving that his Spiritual Kingdom, which is his
Church here on Earth ; ought not to be set up
or forced, either by the Sword or any Civil
Law whatsoever ; but by the preaching of the
Gospel, which is the Sword of the Spirit the
Word of God , *Eph.* 6. 17. And (4.) his E-
ternal Kingdom, on the Throne of his Father
David, (of which we are speaking) himself will
set up at his appearing and Kingdom, when the
Great Men and Noblemen, Bond-men and
Free-men, shall run to the Rocks and Moun-
tains to fall upon them, and hide them from
the presence of the Lamb, *Rev.* 6. 15, 16. *Hos.*
10. 8. *Isa.* 2. 19, 21. *Luke.* 23. 30. This will
be the day of the Lord's vengeance ; and it be-
longs to him to execute it, and not unto us,
Mica. 5. 15. *Rom.* 12. 19. *Deut.* 32. 35. *Heb.*
10. 30.

F I N I S.

